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Lest We Forget

World War II can be seen as one of the most horrific events in Canada’s history. Thousands of brave men and women dedicated and sacrificed their lives so that we as citizens of this great country could be safe and not be traumatized with fear for the rest of our lives. The Royal Canadian Air Force was a huge contribution to our country’s success in the war as many brave and couragous men and women put their lives before their own to ensure our safety and our freedom. Today I have the honour of acknowledging one of these great men, and thus his story must not go untold as we remember F/O James Carlyle Kennedy.

James Carlyle Kennedy was born November 28, 1922 in Winnipeg, MB. This was the same day, Captain Cyril Turner (RAF) gave first skywriting exhibition in New York City, spelling out "Hello USA,” in a Call Vanderbilt 7200 (http://www.datesinhistory.com/nov28.php). He was raised by his parents, James Alexander and Ethel Kennedy, in their Catholic Winnipeg home located on 176 Harvard Ave. James lived his entire live in Winnipeg before being shipped off to service his country. James attended St. Paul’s High School and graduated from Grade 11 in 1939. He was seen as an excellent student excelling in all of his subjects, excluding History and foreign languages, which both he and I seem to struggle in (School Records). After receiving his high school diploma, he continued his education at the University of Manitoba where he strived to earn an Arts degree. It wasn’t until 1941 at the age 19 that this single bachelor joined the Royal Canadian Air Force. Entering the R.C.A.F., James stood at a solid height of 5’10 ½ and weighed in at 150 lbs., brown eyes and brown curly locks. Upon his recruitment into the R.C.A.F., many tests and interviews were done on James in order to see the mental and physical aspects that he brought to the table. In conclusion to these tests, James was seen as a confident, well-mannered and upright man, neatly dressed and came across clear and quick speaker. On November 6, 1941, James Carlyle Kennedy, Service Number: J22693 was accepted into the Royal Canadian Air Force.

James was sent to Carberry, Manitoba for his training. He was give the formal ranking of a Flying Officer (F/O), which leads to his role as a navigator.